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UCAPAWA News

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

Vol. III, No. 4 — 68 — Price 5 cents

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Union Security Contract Ends Trelles Battle

New Orleans—Seven-months struggle of the El Trelles Cigar workers has ended in complete victory for Local 91 with the acceptance of a semi-union shop contract by unanimous vote of the membership on March 8, according to International Vice-Pres. Armando Valdes who has been assisting Local 91. This marks the collapse of the Company's effort to break the Union, composed largely of Spanish-speaking workers.

ARMANDO VALDES

Terms of the contract include reinstatement without discrimination of all those locked-out on August 13, 1942, maintenance of membership for all present members, and all new workers to join after 15 days, vacations with pay, wage increases ranging from 8 to 10%, and job security. None of these conditions existed under the previous contract. Pay was increased 5% in May, 1941.

Hard Struggle

In the course of the dispute hundreds of Trelles workers pounded the pavement sooner than go back to work without union recognition. Following the lock-out in August, the plant reopened Sept. 28 to operate with a skeleton force since. The cause of the cigar workers won wide support in this area, and throughout the United States. A number of UCAPAWA Locals sent contributions to help the Trelles Brothers and Sisters when they were hard put to it to find car fare and money for the grocer.

In the course of an NLRB hearing on Feb. 8, the Mediator succeeded in persuading the Company to enter into direct negotiations with the Union. Successful conclusion of the contract resulted.

Suffolk Local Rallies Churchmen for Bridges

Suffolk, Va.—Political Action Committee of Local 26, under the Chairmanship of Robbie Mae Riddick, Chief Shop Steward at Planters Peanut has organized a lively campaign in Suffolk to help strengthen Pres. Roosevelt's hand in wiping out race discrimination in industry, for dropping of the Harry Bridges' case, and to defeat the Hobbs Bill.

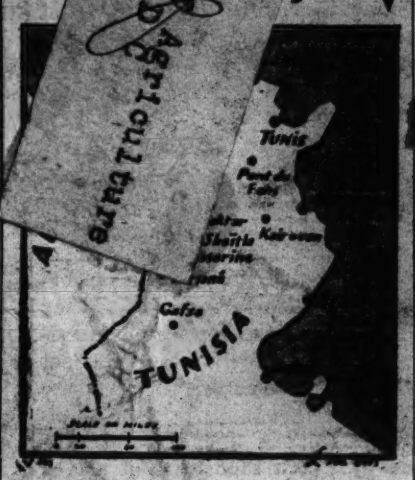
Letters on these subjects were presented to the Ministerial Alliance and to the Suffolk Civic League, which endorsed them and under signature of their officers sent them in to Washington. All the members at both meetings also individually signed letters which had been mimeographed on pale green paper by the Local 26 Commitee.

The letter to Pres. Roosevelt on Bridges says in part "surely it is within your power as Commander-in-Chief to stop this threat of deportation and thus enable Harry Bridges to continue unhampered in the great contribution he is making in the fight against our real enemies, the Axis powers."

In the picture of the delegates to the Midwest Conference in the March 1 NEWS, Clifton Clay was listed as not present in the picture. Actually, he was in the second row, right behind Conrad Espe. The NEWS regrets this error and apologizes.

FREE HARRY BRIDGES APPEALS, including petitions being circulated by UCAPAWA and other CIO Locals, have increased as Bridges again had to appeal the deportation order issued against him by Atty. Gen. Biddle. Bridges is out on bond awaiting a hearing by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

UC...y in ...



Raymond Deal, former Shop Steward, 5th Floor Pulp Dept. at Campbell Soups in Camden, N. J., Local 80, has been seriously wounded somewhere in North Africa, acording to word received by his parents.

3 Somerton Sheds Land In Union Bag

By Paul Gardner, Int. Rep.

Somerton, Ariz.—The first union contracts in this town have been won by Local 78 with the signing of three Union Shop agreements at the packing sheds of H. P. Garin, J. L. Thompson and Lee Consaul. In addition, an NLRB case has been won at Jack Bros. ... agreements and posting of notices that they would cease anti-union activities.

Ancient Hold-Outs

Several attempts have been made in years past by both the CIO and AFL to sign agreements here, but they have always been blocked by the McDaniels Packing Co., owner of the land on which the Garin, Thompson, Lee Consaul and Jack Bros. packing sheds stand.

Under the leadership of Frank Forte and Elmer Pitchford, Volunteer Organizers, three sheds were lined up practically 100%. Then came the shippers with the argument that McDaniels would put them put of business if they signed a Union Agreement. This was broken down by International Representatives Chuck Feller and Paul Gardner at the time of negotiations.

Sitting before the U. S. Dept. of Labor Commissioner, Earl J. Ruddy, each firm was asked if there was any reason because of MacDaniels that they could not deal. Realizing they were on the spot, they answered "no." It was a simple matter from there to sign the agreements.

The organizational work was further hampered by the breaking up of a Union meeting by Robert Kimmel, Inspector of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and Cy Peacocks, Shed Foreman for Jack Bros.

Union Stops Disruption

The Union took quick action in filing charges against the Company and in having Kimmel suspended from the federal inspection service. Unfair labor charges resulted in the Company admitting its guilt and being ordered by the NLRB to post a notice that they would cease and desist their anti-labor activity; and further that the Company would rehire Hubert and Effie Richardson, man and wife, who had been fired for Union activity.

FLORIDA

Fruit And Veg. Packing Shed Local Chartered

By Robert MacKay, International Representative

Orlando, Fla.—A brand new Local was chartered in Florida the last week in February and started with a bang when over 100 members signed up at a mass meeting held at Perrine, Fla. These workers were fruit and vegetable workers, principally tomato packers and tomato shed workers who work in Florida's fertile East Coast winter vegetable section.

Heard of Local 78

Many of the workers in the Florida tomato deal are members of Local 78, the highly successful Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers union of the West Coast. Many were members of a dilapidated AFL Local, and when they compared notes with the members returning from the season on the West Coast, they invited UCAPAWA Representatives Otis G. Nation and Bob MacKay to discuss chartering a local for the small fruit and vegetable "swing" of the East Coast and Gulf Coast.

To Cover East and Gulf

After some discussion and polling of sentiment among the workers, it was decided to issue a charter to the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, Local 9, with jurisdiction over the packing sheds on the Atlantic Coast, Gulf Coast, and the states of Mississippi, West Virginia and New Hampshire.

These workers are extremely anxious to organize and are setting out to emulate the record of Local 78 in its successful campaign to organize the West Coast.

Real rank and file leadership is plentiful in the new Local. A vigorous organizing campaign will be carried on.

Negotiations Start At Big Orlando Shed

Orlando, Fla. — Certification of Local 4 as the collective bargaining agency at C. C. Fosgate, largest shipper-grower of citrus fruits in the Orlando area has been issued by the NLRB and the Union has presented the Company with contract proposals, according to Int. Rep. Bob MacKay. Many of the other big sheds are getting ready for NLRB elections.

Anti-CIOers Squelched

Anti-CIO activities of Judge Peacock, a Tampa lawyer hired by the Company following the winning of the NLRB election by Local 4 have ceased. The Judge has gone back to Tampa and a petition which he had circulated was thrown out by the Labor Board as ... tification. The hardest working anti-CIO stooge in the plant has disappeared. These are good signs that collective bargaining at Fosgate's will proceed in good order.

HERE
Yesterday—Today—Forever
AMERICAN
SOLDIERS, SAILORS MARINES
are now working, fighting and dying every hour in the day and night that this country will be saved and that all AMERICANS can remain FREE. They work any place and at any hour and many die in a fox hole for $50 a month.

Some so-called AMERICANS won't work at all or demand higher wages, then loaf on the job or try to browbeat LOYAL MEN and WOMEN.

CAPT. EDDIE RICKENBACKER
in a speech on February 2nd, 1943 said:—"Men returning from this war do not want and will not accept regimentation of their lives or planned economy; it is time now that congress should provide legislation that upon his release or discharge any member of our armed forces could be employed by any employer without joining any organized labor union", and that all men found stalling on the job and not working at all should take the place of a man at the front and maybe die in a fox hole fighting the Japs and Germans. WE THINK so too.

ARE YOU ON THE JOB?
The KU KLUX KLAN Is Watching!

Buy War Bonds and Stamps—NOW
P. O. Box 1212 ORLANDO, FLA.

THIS THREATENING KKK LEAFLET quoting the anti-labor Rickenbacker has been used to try to stem the UCAPAWA tide in Florida. Winning the first contracts (see page 3), and steady organizational progress is the workers' answer to un-American KKK threats.

American Women

Active Union Women Uphold Our Best Tradition: Throughout American History Women Have Been In the Forefront of the Battle for Democracy

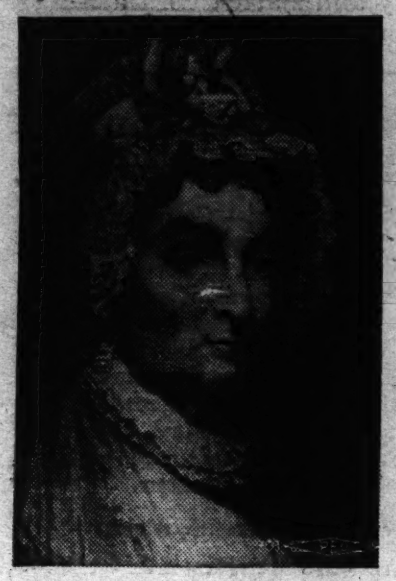
● UCAPAWA women have always been an important part of our Union — women who were not afraid to go out and organize their local, women who find time to take on duties as officers, shop stewards and as untitled rank and filers to help carry on Union work.

Today, as the men march off to the front lines, important responsibilities fall increasingly on our women members. Sometimes these women find, even in UCAPAWA, men who still believe that women have no place in public affairs. And sometimes, too, they are hampered by their own feelings of modesty, that they "do not know how to speak up," that after all they are "only women" who cannot handle issues outside the home.

One answer to such views is to take a look at American history. We find that our country would not be what it is today if women had not fought for freedom and for a better way of life. Active women in the year 1943 are following a course deeply rooted in American history. Here is the story as told by Dr. Philip Foner, outstanding historian. (These talks, reported by Katherine Beecher, were loaned to us by the UE News.)

IN THE REVOLUTION

TODAY there is a special interest in the role of women in the fight for American democracy since a fascist victory would mean for women the loss of all the rights they have won since the days of



Abigail Adams

1761 when women were told that "thy kingdom is thine own home."

Yet even in the days when our country was a colony of Great Britain, women of necessity had to take their place in life outside their homes.

During the long years of pioneering, when the men of the family were away fighting the Indians the women at home were often forced to defend their homes and children against attacking Indian bands.

Boycotted Tea

In the years preceding the American Revolution women played an important part in the boycott of English goods.

Women in New England organized an Anti-Tea League and passed a resolution which said:

"We, the daughters of those patriots who have and do now appear for the public interest, and in proper regard for their posterity, as such do, with pleasure, engage with them in denying ourselves the drink of foreign tea in hopes to frustrate a plan which tends to deprive a whole country of all that is valuable in life."

Daughters of Liberty

While most of our history books record the patriotic work of the Sons of Liberty, little space is given to a similar organization of women, the Daughters of Liberty. These women did their part in the struggle for freedom by holding meetings at which they produced the materials needed to take the place of what they had formerly bought from Great Britain.

The women of the revolutionary period not only helped the men, they took the lead in many cases. While leading men of the country were debating whether to seek a compromise or make a complete break with the mother country, Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams who was to be the second president of the United States, was the first person to demand a declaration of independence.

When this step was finally taken and the men were considering the laws by which our country would be governed, Mrs. Adams wrote her husband and warned him that women would oppose any laws which did not recognize the rights of women to take part in making such laws.

On the Battlefront

During the actual fighting in the war for independence, women played an important part. In some cases, as those of Deborah Simpson and Molly Pitcher, they actually took part in the fighting when their husbands had been killed or wounded.

In the battle of Fort Washington, Margaret Corbin took her husband's place behind a cannon when he was killed in action. As a result of her heroism she was praised by Congress and given a pension, although because she was a woman she only got half of what a man would have received.

Other women at home organized groups to raise money for supplies for the army and to make clothes for the troops. One such group in Philadelphia raised $400,000, an extremely large sum in those days.

Just as women today, women in 1779 were faced with profiteers and the high cost of living. When a New York merchant was found to be hoarding coffee in hopes that the price would go up, 100 women descended on his warehouse and forced him to sell to them at a price they felt was just.

So in spite of the belief that women's place was in the home, the very circumstances of life made it necessary for women to take part in the life of their communties.

FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY

THE next important period in our history in which women played an important role and won new victories in the fight for the emancipation of their sex was the struggle against slavery.

In this fight, too, women were told that they were out of their field and to go home and mind their own business, but such warnings went unheeded. Women organized anti-slavery societies, they sent petitions to Congress demanding that the Negro slaves be set free, they raised money for the cause and they took part in building the famous underground railroad by which thousands of slaves escaped to the North and freedom.

In addition they carried on powerful propaganda campaigns against slavery. In their many sewing circles where to a suspicious eye the women appeared to be innocently knitting, an eavesdropper would have learned that heated discussions were going on as the women spread the anti-slavery message to others and won many new recruits for the campaign.

Outstanding Leaders

Who were some of the outstanding women in the fight to free the slaves? There was Prudence Crandall, a teacher in Waterbury, Conn., who ran a school for young girls. In 1838 she invited a young Negro girl to attend the school. A violent storm of protest resulted and all the other parents immediately took their daughters out of the school. Nothing daunted, Miss Crandall turned it into a school entirely for Negro girls.

In the South there were the sisters Sara and Angelina Grimpky, well-to-do daughters of a South

Harriet Tubman

Carolina slaveholder. They came to the conclusion that a Christian could not tolerate slavery and ran away from home so they could join the anti-slavery fight. They were among the first women who spoke openly against slavery.

Then there was Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, a book which played an important part in the growth of the anti-slavery movement and which was read in many countries besides our own.

In her campaign to win women to the fight against slavery, Harriet Beecher Stowe called on the women in words that could be used today as our nation goes forth to take part in the fight against fascism:

"For the sake then of our dear children, for the sake of our common country, for the sake of outraged and struggling liberty throughout the world, let every woman in America now do her duty."

Famous Negro Slave

Of all the fighters for freedom for the slaves, none did more important work nor received less mention for it in today's textbooks than the Negro woman, Harriet Tubman, herself a slave who had escaped to the North and determinted to devote her life to freeing others.

At one time there was a reward on her head of $200,000, dead or alive. Undaunted by this, she worked in northern hotels every summer to raise the necessary money and each winter made trips to the South to bring other slaves through the underground railroad to freedom.

"Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land;
Tell old Pharaoh, 'Let my people go'."

The beautiful, famous old spiritual that everyone knows refers not only to the Moses of the Bible, but to this brave Negro woman whom the slaves called "our Moses." They made up the song about her. Slave-owners hearing it thought the slaves were singing about the Children of Israel. They were singing about freedom.

Another song, an ancient Negro spiritual called "Steal Away," was her signal to the slaves to steal away into the forest and plan escape with her.

Denounced on All Sides

These are only the most famous of those courageous women who ignored the threats of press and pulpit and went forth to do battle for a cause in which they believed. And as they fought for freedom for the Negroes, they were also fighting for and winning new freedom for themselves.

Fannie Wright was the first woman ever to speak from a public platform. Yet so strong was the feeling against such a thing that the first time she tried it, someone set fire to the hall in which she was speaking.

Today, when women take part in every phase of our life it is hard to believe that they are able to do this only as a result of long years of fighting in which every newspaper, preacher and public orator denounced education and political equality for women as schemes of the devil or foreign propaganda which no well-mannered female would pay heed to.

Fortunately for us today they did pay heed, and as a result of their courage American women have freedom and rights which they, along with the men, will fight and die for even as their pioneer ancestors did before them.

Federated Pictures

FAMOUS FIRST LADIES MEET as Eleanor Roosevelt greets Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, wife of China's generalissimo, on arrival in Washington. In a speech to Congress, Mme. Chiang appealed for more aid to China. At all her public appearances she has increased the admiration of the American people, both for herself and for her heroic country which has fought off the Japanese armies for almost six years.

8354
6-14 yrs.

Federated Press Pattern

Slim youngsters as well as chubby ones look well in this little dress. Pattern No. 8354 is in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Send 15c in coin, your name, address, pattern number and size to Federated Pattern Service, 106 Seventh Ave., New York, N. Y. Enclosed 1c postage.

First Florida Pact Calls For 10c Pay Boost

Orlando, Fla.—Local 4 has won its first Florida contract in the drive to organize the 30,000 citrus workers in this state. It is a good maintenance of membership contract with the Consumers Co. of Apopka. The workers did a good job in building their Union, in spite of a vicious anti-CIO campaign by the Ku Klux Klan.

At the first meeting held the middle of December, four workers came out, joined the Union and planned another meeting for the next week. At the next meeting, two more joined. Then there were two or three meetings that no one signed an application card.

Committee Formed

The workers were finally able to get a dozen people out to form an Organizing Committee which promptly went to work.

The results were amazing. Some 75 joined one Sunday. Thirty more joined the next morning during working hours. When the Union requested recognition, the Company refused. The Union then petitioned the NLRB who sent in an agent. In a card check of membership cards, the Union won bargaining rights by a score of 8 to 1. Local 4 had 201 signed cards.

Then came bargaining. The Company stalled a month, but the workers did not become discouraged. The meetings were larger and larger, and when the Company learned this, they sat down and bargained with the Union Committee.

Union Security

These are the contract provisions: Maintenance of membership; checkoff; 8 hour day, 40 hour week; 4 hours' pay for reporting to work when none is available; double time for the seventh straight work shift; 6 holidays with time and one-half if worked; 2 holidays with pay if not worked; seniority rights; 10c blanket increase in wages; grievance machinery with arbitration as the last step; and vacations, one week for one year's service, 2 weeks with 2 years' service.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are Frances Jeffers, Catherine Hudson, Mary Sherrod, J. L. Kirkland, J. L. Hargett and Otis G. Nation, Int. Vice-Pres.

Ignore KKK

During the time the Local was working on the contract, the KKK passed out leaflets to the workers saying: "The Ku Klux Klan is watching you!" (See picture, page 1.)

While the KKK men watched and the Superintendent of the plant read the leaflets to the workers, the Committee was forcing the Company to concede the contract provisions.

As one worker said, "What we have done here should inspire every worker in the citrus and allied fields in Florida to join up with the CIO. You see that we no longer fear the Klan. Instead of us being afraid of what they might do to us, they had better begin to worry about what we might do to them!"

The wage increase has been submitted for WLB approval.

Pledge Cards to Start Off

Pledge cards are being printed, and as soon as 150 have volunteered to give a pint of blood, the Red Cross Mobile Unit will come to our plant. We hope this first visit will be around April 5. The Company's contribution to the plan is to allow the donations to be carried out on Company time.

Red Cross Also Needs $$$

Our Joint Committee has also planned a Drive for Red Cross donations, with a goal of $5,250. Members of the Drive Committee from Local 80 are: Anthony Valentino, Chairman; Carmen Parente, Sylvia Neff, Rose Ripoli and William Downing. Shop Stewards will be given pledge cards to circulate through the Departments.

Victory Food and Safety!

Another plan of our Committee is Victory lunches to provide the workers well-balanced meals in the Company cafeteria.

On the Safety side of the work, we have received and put into practice many suggestions, including guards on the filling machines. Another suggestion pushed by our Committee now makes it possible to buy safety shoes at the plant.

Our Joint Labor Management Committee, started in June 1942, has nine other sub-Committees covering every phase of better production and conditions for our "Food for Victory" work. Company and Union are equally represented on all these groups. Each sub-Committee meets once a week, as well as the main Committee. Frank Di Maio is the other Union Representative on the Health, Safety and Welfare Sub-Committee.

Florida, Again

Union Leads To Peaceful Agreement

Jacksonville, Fla. — Second UCAPAWA Florida agreement was signed, sealed and delivered by Local 4-A here.

This agreement with Wilson and Toomer provides for maintenance of membership; check-off; six holidays; 10c hourly wage increase and a minimum of 50c per hour, with 5c bonus for night work; and one week's vacation with pay. Pay boosts are subject to government approval.

Had Struck

"This was a case where UCAPAWA came into the picture after the Company had forced the workers to strike and was successful in getting them back to work," explains Int. Vice-Pres. Otis G. Nation. "Through union action, an election was held, won by UCAPAWA by a vote of 136 to 22, and better conditions gained through peaceful collective bargaining.

"This is an example of how organization assures steady production."

Edward Kushion

Saginaw, Mich.—Our flag was raised to half mast in honor of Bro. Edward Kushion who passed away very suddenly. It was Eddie's job to see that our flag was put up, and taken down at sun down.

He will be missed very much at Local 68, as he was one of our best Committeemen. As far back as I remember, his name was on every contract, except one. He was also on the Saginaw CIO Council and Political Committee.

By Harriet Jacobi, Press Agent
Dailey Pickle Local 68

Biggest Cannery in West

Local 2 Gains Security

Fullerton, Calif.—Union Security clause has been won by Local 2 which is negotiating its first contract with Hunt Bros. Packing Co., largest fruit and vegetable cannery in the West, according to Int. Vice-Pres. Luisa Moreno. Negotiations have been going on since Jan. 8.

Terms of the Security clause to be included in the contract are: maintenance of membership; preferential hiring and union security for seasonal workers; non-seasonal workers hired after Feb. 1 will be required to join the union within 30 days.

Shortly after negotiations started, the Company agreed to retroactive pay from Jan. 1.

Early in Feb., following a request from the Union in an effort to speed negotiations on wages and other unsettled points, U. S. Conciliation Commission Harry Malcom was promptly assigned to the case and called a meeting in the Los Angeles Federal Building.

Val Vita Sold Plants

Shortly after the meeting the Val Vita Co. which had been participating in joint negotiations with Hunt Bros., announced that they had sold their tin can manufacturing plant to Continental Can. Local 2 has asked for a meeting with the new company entering the picture.

A long drawn out struggle for union conditions has been going on since last August at this large cannery and can plant, both at that time owned by Val Vita. UCAPAWA won the NLRB election on Nov. 4 by an overwhelming vote.

Conditions in the plant had been chaotic. UCAPAWA is determined to make this a top-notch Food for Victory plant.

CLOTHING FOR SHARECROPPERS, members of Local 349 in Harviell, Mo., was collected by Margaret Everling (left) and Ruth Huntzinger of Local 32, Frazier cannery, in Elwood, Ind. They received a nice letter of thanks from Ida Wilson for this trunk of clothes.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

LEADERS OF IOWA LOCAL OF 450 MEMBERS

By Palmer Peterson, Press Agent

Marshalltown, Iowa—To Secretary L. R. Olsen and Brother Harley Butters goes the credit for signing up about 250 new members working in the Government Chicken Packing Dept. at Marshall Canning, Local 166. The total membership of the Local which was organized in 1937 and is the only CIO organization in town, is now 425.

Pres. M. Evertson, Raymond Harvey, Emery Gard and Carl Siegel were elected to attend the Midwest Regional Conference in Chicago in February. Since Bro. Evertson broke three ribs, he could not attend the meeting. Sec. Olsen took his place.

The boys met Exec. Vice-Pres. Conrad Espe and Int. Rep. Jack Fox at the meeting.

Those in the picture are (l. to r.): Sec. Olsen; Stewards Wilmer Mitchell, Frank Kloos, and Harley Butters; Acting Pres. M. Evertson; and Steward Leo Duncan.

Campbell Union-Company Group Pushes Blood Donation Plan

By Ethel Jackson, Sub-Committee Chairman

Camden, N. J.—Workers at the Campbell Soup plant here (Local 80) will contribute blood to the Red Cross as the result of plans worked out by the Sub-Committee on Safety, Health and Welfare of the Joint Labor-Management Committee. Our Committee won the Company's consent for this campaign, although for 6 months previously the Company Doctor had batted his head against a stone wall when he tried to get such a project through.

Local 32

BLOOD GIVERS

Elwood, Ind.—Members of Local 32, at Frazier's Cannery in Elwood, Ind., who have recently contributed blood to the Red Cross Mobile Blood Bank, according to Mrs. Ruth Huntzinger, include:

Emma Bitner (contributed three times), Florence Clary, Genevieve Colcord, Flora Fern, Ruth Groover, Babe Hodson, Ruth Huntzinger and Myrtle Schrougham.

Notes from LOCALS

79 Our Local 79 at Beutel Canning in Bay City, Mich., entertained members and friends with a "Victory Party" last Saturday night, celebrating the signing of our new contract, and the raise in wages now in the hands of the WLB.

Bro. Bob Clark, Int. Vice-Pres., was able to be with us and had a good time.

Dancing and refreshments were the main event. Thanks to Pres. Joe Polzin for securing the drinks from Beutel Canning Co., and thanks to Beutel for their donation.

By Lillian Mersdorf, Fin. Sec.

179 New officers of Local 179, Archer - Daniel - Midland (soy beans) in Toledo, Ohio are: E. Ringer, Pres.; E. Wendel, Vice-Pres.; E. Marchal, Fin. Sec.; William Hilderbrant, Rec. Sec. (V. Flary, Alternate); C. Faudree, One Year Trustee; V. Flary, Three Year Trustee; E. Wendel and C. Degood, Grievance Committee; J. Bloom, L. Howell and C. Degood, Safety Committee; William James, Guard; Brown and Degood, CIO Council Delegates (Hilderbrant, Alternate); William James, J. Bloom and C. Schrieber, Sick Committee.

By Leo Howell, Press Agent.

Guide to Political Action

"This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it . . ."—Lincoln

Anti-Poll Tax Bill

IT'S time to chalk up an outstanding victory in the fight against the Poll Tax and get ready for the next round. Six congressmen have united behind one bill, HR 7, and formed a non partisan Congressional coalition to pass the Anti-Poll Tax bill. Members of the coalition are: Magnusen of Washington, Gavagan of New York, and Dawson of Illinois, Democrats; Bender of Ohio and Baldwin of New York, Republicans; Marcantonio of New York, American Labor Party.

OFFICIAL
Act on these matters NOW. Don't wait for a telegram or letter from the National Office.

A unified fight by labor and liberal groups produced unified congressional support for this bill.

Action: The next step is to obtain 218 signatures to **Discharge Petition No. 3** which will blast the anti-poll tax bill out of the Poll Tax dominated House Rules Committee onto the floor of the House. Communicate with your congressman immediately and ask him to sign the discharge petitions and vote for the bill.

War Mobilization and Manpower

1. Absenteeism. The labor haters were stuck. Labor had kept its no strike pledge so well that they had absolutely nothing to pin their ravings and rantings on. Then they discovered a new racket, beating the drums about absenteeism.

Absenteeism is caused by many things: too long hours, bad transportation, lack of facilities to care for children of working mothers, etc. It can be remedied by meeting these problems. But Congress is urging this symptom of the need for more war services for war workers as an excuse for proposing that absentee workers be reported to their draft boards (**Johnson Bill 1876**)—a procedure which won't solve the absenteeism problem any more than closing down the plants would.

2. Labor draft. Another way Congress has thought up of not meeting the manpower problem is the **Austin-Wadsworth bill (S666 and HR 1742)** to draft labor. Once again the point is not senseless compulsion. The labor draft alone cannot solve anything because it will not tell us how and where workers are needed. The real answer is sound planning of production which will make possible the proper distribution of workers. The Tolan Pepper Kilgore bill would lay the basis for such planning.

3. Slavery for Farm Labor. Finally, the Farm Bloc has introduced a bill which would do credit to Hitler. **S 297,** introduced by Senator Bankhead and reported favorably by the Senate Military Affairs Committee makes the Tydings Amendment deferring farm labor seem like child's play.

The Bankhead bill would subject any farm worker to "imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than $10,000" or both if he moved from one farm to anther to work without the consent of his Selective Service Board.

All farm workers would be frozen in their jobs whether they produced necessary or totally unnecessary commodities. Senator O'Mahoney, in opposing this bill stated that it created a condition of involuntary servitude. It would cripple our army and wreck our industrial and farm war production programs. **Although it would at first affect only farm labor it would serve as a precedent which could soon mean slavery for all labor.**

ACTION: Wire your Senators, and ask them to commit themselves to voting against this vicious bill which may come up for a vote immediately.

Taxes

EVERY day in the House different aspects of the 1943 tax bill are coming up for discussion. Political Action Committees must be on their toes to meet these issues as they arise.

This week the **Disney bill,** which would prevent limitation of income to $67,500 ($25,000 after taxes) may come up for a vote.

In the meantime the House Ways and Means Committee continues its consideration of the big overall tax bill. **Keep in mind the most important points in the CIO Tax Program for Victory:**

1) The funds necessary to finance the war must be assured. The President has called for new revenue of 16 billion dollars. The nation must get it.

2) This isn't a problem of distributing sacrifices, or punishing or soaking any part of the population. It is a problem of raising the money by cutting into those income brackets where cuts can be made without endangering the health and productivity of the population.

3) The CIO tax program is in line with these basic points. It calls for:

a) "Pay as you go" tax collection which would deduct taxes from income as it is earned, but **not** the Ruml plan. The real point of the Ruml plan, although it goes under a "pay as you go" label is that it cancels income tax for the entire year of 1942 during which the rich had particularly high incomes. **You** would pay as usual under the Ruml plan.

b) Exemptions to be increased to $800 for single persons, $1,500 for married couples with $400 for each dependent.

c) Increased rates of taxation starting at $3,000.

d) Increase taxes on corporate profits.

e) Repeal the mis-named Victory Tax which puts a flat 5% burden on all wages of $12 a week and over.

f) Close tax loopholes by taxing interest from state and local bonds and forcing husband and wife to file joint returns. (Separate returns make it possible for the rich to pay less.)

ACTION: Pound this tax program home to your Congressmen. A LETTER from every individual UCAPAWA member to his Congressman. A DELEGATION from your Local to see your Congressman when he is back home in his district. A LETTER from your Local to him in the meantime.

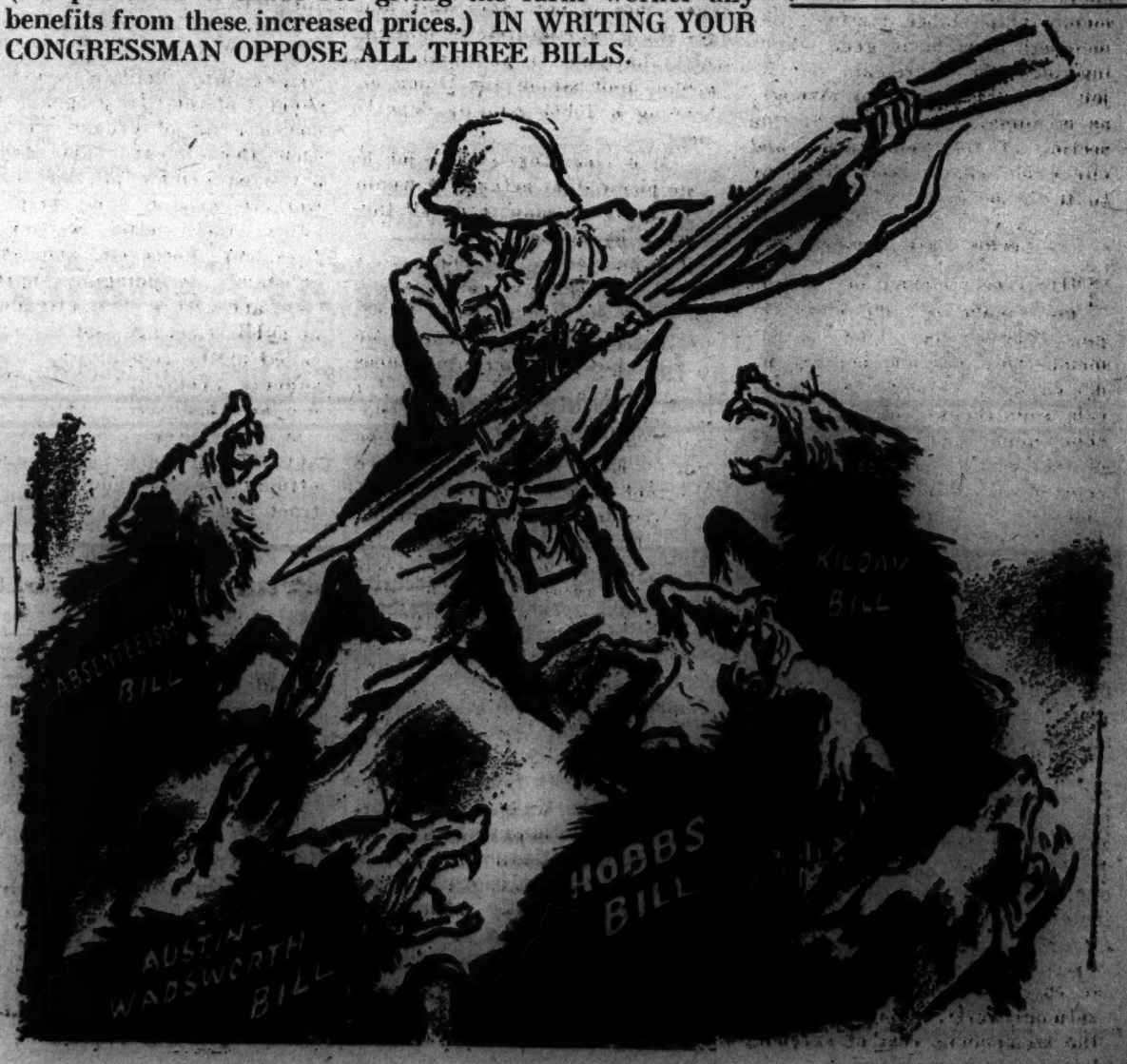
Take time out in union meetings for writing individual letters. Have the paper and enevolpes there!

Congress and Food

THE last issue of UCAPAWA NEWS carried our FOOD FOR VICTORY Program. In the next issue you will find an Action program to put the policies we outlined into effect.

In the meantime Congress is playing the old farm bloc game with farm prices—up, up, up. Polls have shown that farmers are satisfied with present prices and it is a well known fact that farm income is at a high point. The main purpose of the farm bloc in trying to push up prices is to shove the country over the brink of inflation. Labor should not be misled into thinking that higher prices today will solve the farmers' problem. They won't. What they will do is raise the price of food to the consumer and finally raise the prices of what the farmer must buy.

This explains why labor opposes three bills, all of which are out to raise the price allowed for farm products. The **Bankhead bill** (S 660) provides that the farmer should get government payments **on top** of the regular price which he is allowed under Price Control legislation. The **Pace and Brown bills** (HR 1408 and 2002) provide that prices should be increased by figuring in farm labor costs. (No provision is made for giving the farm worker any benefits from these increased prices.) IN WRITING YOUR CONGRESSMAN OPPOSE ALL THREE BILLS.



EDITOR'S LETTER

When Eddie Rickenbacker gets through sunning himself in the "foxholes" of Florida and starts again strutting his anti-labor stuff, UCAPAWA has a job to do.

I have sent a letter to Press Agents and Local Presidents outlining how to expose Rickenbacker's shabby game and give a thumping CIO answer to his disunity diatribes. Be sure your local goes to town on this.

Margaret Wood, new Press Agent of Local 20 in Harbor Beach, Mich. sent in a good story telling of their gains since voting UCAPAWA at Huron Milling and what was my horror to find after the paper was all made up that it was not in, **Profound apologies.**

Deadline for the April 1 issue of the NEWS is March 20. Stories arriving March 23 will make the paper, PROVIDING word has arrived by March 20 to hold space.

Fraternally yours,
Connie Anderson

UCAPAWA News

Published Twice Monthly at 838 Greenwich St., N. Y. C. by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

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Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

Entered as second class matter January 28, 1943, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. III No. 4 Mar. 15, 1943

Forward March!

By HAROLD J. LANE, Sec.-Treas.

No Free Union Rides!

"LET'S make every local a 100% dues paying local" is the subject of a letter which I have just sent to the Financial Secretaries and Executive Boards of all Local Unions. So that all UCAPAWA Members may know about and support this drive to clamp down on those who think they can get a free Union ride, here is the letter:

One of the problems which this Union has been faced with and one which received considerable attention and discussion at our International Convention, was closing the gap between our actual dues paying membership and the membership we have under contract.

As a first positive step in meeting this problem, a very clear cut definition concerning membership standing was placed in the International Constitution, Article XIII, Section 7, as follows:

"Membership Standing. Any member in arreas for a period of 30 days shall be notified by the Financial Secretary. If such delinquent fails to place himself or herself in good standing within 30 days from such notice, he or she shall be considered in bad standing and shall be subject to suspension. Any member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by paying back dues, in addition to current month's dues, and a reinstatement fee of $5.00."

Notify Delinquents

AS you will notice, it states that any member who is an arrears for a period of 30 days shall be notfied by the Financial Secretary. It is with this thought in mind that I have prepared the enclosed form letter No. 13-7. (Editor's Note: The form letter is a letter to a delinquent member explaining why he must get paid up.)

I do not feel that this letter is worded too strongly, but it does point out to the members that their dues must be paid on time or they will be penalized.

The vast majority of our contracts are closed shop, or union shop, or have a maintenance of membership clause stating that members must be in good standing in order to remain on the job. I want to urge as strongly as is humanly possible that this section of the Constitution and our union contracts be lived up to, to the letter.

Locals Lose Money

THIS recommendation is not only made to help close the gap between our dues paying membership and membership under contract, but many of our locals, even though they had closed shop, union shop or maintenance of membership clauses in their contracts, have lost a considerable sum of money due to the fact that members have been three or four months behind in dues (in some case more) and have left the plant for another job.

In cases where there is a large turnover in employment, this naturally means a considerable loss of income to the local union.

Finances Mean Strength

DURING these times local unions must maintain their peak strength, economically, financially and politically in order for us to be in a position to fight off anti-labor attacks and to carry on successfully organizational work. Especially due to the tremendous cost of servicing because of the various steps and procedures we have to go through in order to obtain results, every cent of available money is needed.

Action should be taken on the following points:

1. There should be a clear and thorough discussion of this communication by your Executive Board.

2. The International Constitution takes precedence and is enforced over and above any local constitution or by-laws.

3. Note Article XIII, Section 4 which states that reinstatement fees shall be a minimum of $5.00. ($2.50 shall be sent to the National Office.)

4. Form letter 13-7 can be ordered from the National Office in quantities of 100 for 50c. (This is actual cost.)

Let's Go!

THERE is no reason why workers should sit back and ride the gravy train—enjoy the wage increase, better working conditions that you have worked for—and still not pay dues. Let's make every local in the International a 100% dues paying local.

I would be very much interested to receive comments and results obtained on the contents of this communication.

Help Clarich

For the month of Feb., Mrs. Clarich received a total of $53.96, of which $39 was from UCAPAWA people as follows: Locals 47, 62, 79, 80 and 638; International Office Staff.

Although this was much better than January, we must do better than this. Mrs. Clarich has four children to feed and clothe! Where are some of the other Locals?

Chris Clarich, the father, was thrown into jail during a shrimp peelers' strike in 1938.

In sending her monthly report, Mrs. Clarich says "please give my thanks to all of the members and workers in UCAPAWA."

QUESTIONS

On Rules of Conduct of a Local Meeting, as set forth in the International Constitution.

1. Name the order of businss.
2. When and how may the order of business be suspended?
3. When must motions be submitted in writing?
4. Must the seconder of a motion be recognized by the chair?
5. How can a motion be withdrawn?

(Answers on page 7.)

Inside Washington

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Research and Legislative Director

INSIDE WASHINGTON is the new title of this column. In each issue of the UCAPAWA NEWS it will give background information on the main issues in Washington to round out and add to the Guide to Political Action. This time it is different. It is a simple recitation of the thoughts which the words INSIDE WASHINGTON suggest to your legislative representative.

HERE in Washington today there are for the first time permanent representatives of a dozen or more CIO International Unions, among them UCAPAWA's representative. This is something new in the history of the CIO. It is not an accident.

For several years a reactionary minority in Congress hacked away not only at the gains which labor won under the New Deal but at the basic democratic rights which made it possible for American workers to organize on the economic front and act on the political front. During this time the watchfulness of the CIO and the leadership it gave to workers in all unions was able to defeat the reactionary minority.

This fact led many union members, rightfully proud of the job their organization accomplished (for example in saving the Wagner Act), to have a false sense of security. They felt that with a liberal President of the United States and an honest militant trade union movement they were safe.

With the entrance of the United States into the war against fascism, and before too, they put their shoulders to the wheel to do a production job and they put on uniforms to do a fighting job. They worked longer hours, they pledged they would not strike for the duration and they offered the knowledge and skill of years of experience in their industries to speed production for Victory.

• • •

BUT while they did these things their opponents were not asleep. A new coalition was formed to fight labor and to sabotage the war — a union of republicans and poll tax democrats cemented more strongly than ever before and in most cases obstructing the war effort and attacking labor as a joint enterprise.

In the November elections, by and large, this Hooverite bloc, masquerading as a "farm bloc" whenever it could, won and we lost. It was not asleep; it played on the people's dissatisfaction with administration failure to act vigorously in coordinating the war economy and fighting the war. It took advantage of the sense of false security that kept millions of union members and their families from voting.

Now the republicans have 209 votes in the House; the democrats have 222 votes, but really the democrats have only 141 because the rest are southern poll-taxers taking the leadership in anti-administration measures. Simple arithmetic shows you that the reactionaries can win any time they put their minds to it.

• • •

THIS is what we are up against. It is something NEW. It's not the old story of a minority of labor hating hecklers who can be beaten with one hand tied and a nod from the President.

Take the record of this 78th Congress on two issues against which it is almost impossible to imagine any halfway decent human being voting "No."

The House of Representatives of the 78th Congress voted against funds for the care of children whose mothers are working in war industries.

The House of Representatives of the 78th Congress voted against providing maternity care for wives of servicemen fighting on the front lines.

Let every union man or woman who may think secretly to himself that this is the same old thing and somehow we will come out all right remember these votes.

• • •

AND let him remember that this black picture can be changed by the union men and women of this country. There has never been a Congress that could not be made to respond when the people who can vote it out of office were aroused. This is what the CIO and the UCAPAWA knew INSIDE WASHINGTON when they took steps to make Congress feel the weight of the CIO victory program and a joint legislative front with the A. F. of L., railroad brotherhoods and the Farmers' Union.

Part of this can be done INSIDE WASHINGTON but the main part has to be done OUTSIDE WASHINGTON by your local, keeping a Political Action Committee functioning, just as well and as often as a grievance committee, in making your demands known to Congress. If you do this, and only if you do this, the CIO, your International officers and your legislative representative can do some good INSIDE WASHINGTON.

Building the Local: *The Job of Shop Steward*

Shop Stewards represent the Union in the plant. The strength of the Local Union depends largely on how effectively they function on grievance work, Political Action, dues collection and in leading their department in all the other Union activities.

But these Shop Stewards must not act solely as individuals, trying as best they can to handle all the jobs. They must act as LEADERS, involving the members in the Department in carrying out the various jobs. Here are some tips on how the Stewards can develop top-notch departments.

ACTIVE DEPARTMENTS

TAKE the case of a Shop Steward who has as many as 50, 75 or even 100 workers in his Department. Think of his problem of single-handedly seeing to it that he hears of all grievances and that they are properly handled, that he calls to the attention of those in his department the Political questions on which they must contact their representatives in both the State and National Legislatures, in making sure that this large number of people understands the Union, in keeping a 100% paid-up department.

It is clear that such a job is no picnic, that actually it would take a superman to do all this work by himself.

The answer to that one is that there is no earthly reason why a Shop Steward must work alone. Actually, such an attempt, no matter how well-meaning, does not lead to a good Union job, for the members are not being educated to help with the Union work. Even if a Shop Steward does not have the problem of being responsible for large numbers, he still should plan for those in the Department to help share his tasks. This not only serves to ease a heavy burden on one person, but it helps to build an active Union in which many members learn to pull together and to take a personal interest in the success of the Union.

Assistant Stewards

SIMPLEST way to start to build active departments is for the Shop Steward to chose a group of Assistants. These Assistants must meet together at regular times with the Steward to report on their work, and together to develop further plans.

There should be an Assistant for about each 10 workers, in any case, a small enough number of people who work closely together on the job so that they are well-known to each other. Here are some of the jobs which the Assistant Stewards should be responsible to the Steward:

1. New Workers. When a new worker goes on the job, the Assistant immediately makes friends, sees that he understands the Union, the contract, when meetings are held, how to pay dues, etc.

2. Political Action. With UCAPAWA throwing its full weight into Political work in support of the CIO program, this means a lot of ground work in each Department. The Assistant must explain all this to the workers around him, help organize their letter writing to President Roosevelt and other officials, including Congressmen, and assure their attendance at public meetings which may be called in the community to rally support behind Win-the-War, pro-labor policies.

3. Grievances. While Assistant Shop Stewards will not have official status under the contract and will not be authorized to take up grievances with the foreman, they must keep their ears close to the ground for "beefs." The aggrieved member should be urged to take this up with the Shop Steward promptly.

4. Dues. In plants where Shop Stewards are responsible for dues collections, the Assistants can do yoeman service in keeping a methodical check on the small group around them. Business-like records of the standing of each one must be kept in writing, to report to the Steward. Some Locals will prefer that money and books should be handed only to the Steward, others will allow the Assistants to take in the dues to be handed over immediately to the Steward.

But no matter how it is done, Assistants can be of great aid to the Shop Steward in helping build and maintain that 100% Union Department.

5. Workers Who Leave. The Assistant must be sure that all those who leave have their proper withdrawal card, transfer, or whatever is appropriate. Especially those who go to the Armed Forces must not be allowed to drift off without contact with the Union. The Assistant at the minimum, must be sure that these boys know what job protection they have under the contract for when they come home, must get their address, ask them to write to keep in touch with the Union back home, and tell them that you will hand in their name and address to receive UCAPAWA NEWS when they are away.

In Locals which have not yet developed Assistant Shop Stewards, this subject should be discussed at the next Stewards' meeting. Consider the above suggestions well and if found good for your Local, the Stewards should decide in detail what steps they will take to get Assistants into action.

What Do YOU Say?

If you are a rank and filer, do you think your Department would be a stronger Union outfit if you had Assistant Stewards?

Or perhaps you are a Steward—what's your idea on the Assistant proposition?

WRITE YOUR OPINION to UCAPAWA NEWS. With letters coming in we can build up a membership discussion in the columns of the News on building active Union Departments. Or, for that matter, write on any Union subject that you want to see aired in our paper.

Victory Platform Unites Ariz. Labor

Phoenix—An Arizona Labor Victory Committee started by Governor Sidney P. Osborn with the joint action of CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods, elected Paul Gardner, UCAPAWA Int. Rep. as its Chairman. Each of the three labor groups is equally represented. In announcing organization of the committee, the governor indicated he expects it to "serve a valuable function in the War effort and promote unity of action by labor in the various fields in which agencies of state government are concerned."

Aims and objectives worked out at the first meeting are:

1. Promotion of labor unity.

2. Increase of war production, including a study to determine the causes and initiate the cure for absenteeism.

3. Devise programs for full use of Arizona's manpower in the war effort.

4. Organized participation of union members in the various civilian defense programs.

5. Representation of labor on all war agencies, state and federal.

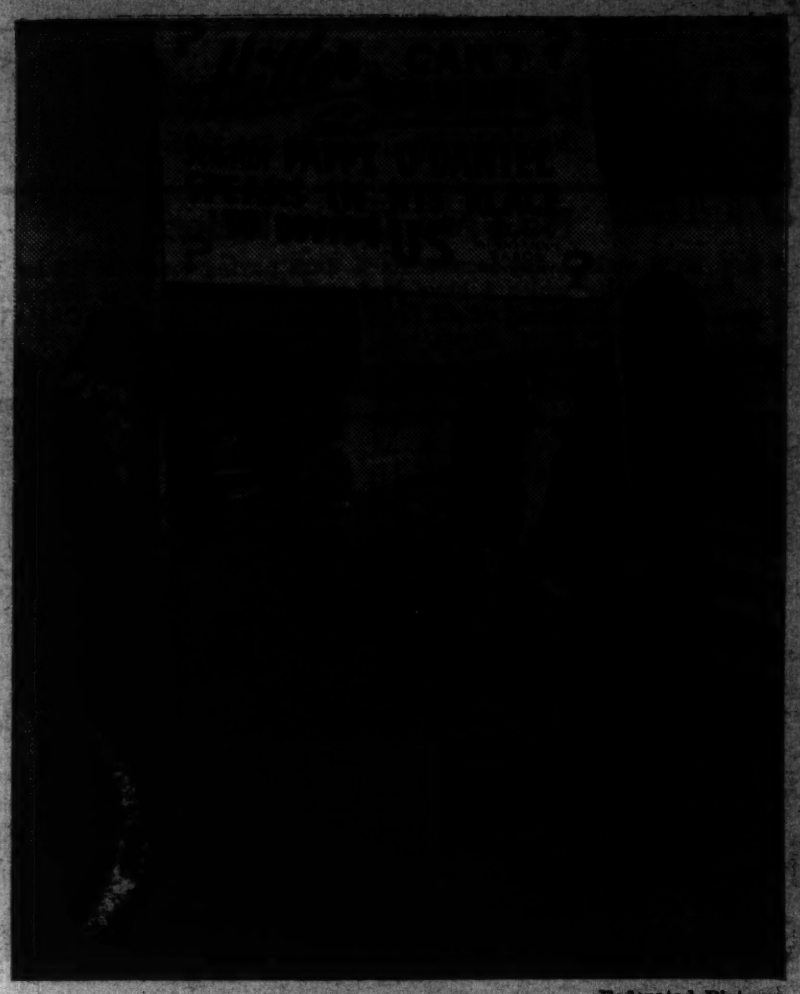
6. Support of legislation to help win the war.

Friendliness with Soldiers

7. Cooperation with soldier camps and factories and mines, to promote understanding and cooperation between soldiers on the battlefront and "soldiers of production" as recommended by Donald Nelson, War Production Board chairman.

8. Formulation of postwar plans for submission to the proper state and federal agencies.

Starting off with six members, the Committe will be enlarged to 12, with two more members to be named by each of the three groups.



Federated Picture

THIS RECEPTION COMMITTEE was the "greeting" which Minneapolis and St. Paul workers extended to Sen. W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel, Texas hot air shooter, when he came to Minnesota to urge the legislature to copy Texas' anti-labor laws.

Cemetery Local Boosts Pay $4.50 in 2 Pacts

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Cemetery Local 293 has won victories on three fronts: wage increases in a renewal agreement, with Holy Cross; a new contract signed for the recently organized Mt. Judah group; and Lutheran Cemetery organized. Local 293 headed by Joseph Manning as Pres., has for a number of years had a contract with Greenwood, the biggest cemetery in the world.

Lutheran Organizes

At the first meeting of the Lutheran workers, 36 signed up in UCAPAWA and paid their initiations then and there. Some 40 work at the cemetery. John Keicher was elected Chairman.

"The conditions under which the Lutheran people work are much worse than any other cemetery in the area," reports Int. Rep. Barney Henley. "We expect to start negotiations very shortly and are confident that UCAPAWA will improve the working conditions considerably.

Mt. Judah Contract

The contract for the newly organized Mt. Judah cemetery provides for Maintenance of Membership, seven paid holidays, two weeks' vacation with pay, seniority, job security and wage increases of $4.50 per week.

Union Negotiators were Nick Sokol, who has just gone into the Army, Martin Seyfried, Pres. Joseph Manning and Int. Rep. Barney Henley.

Those who shaped up the renewal agreement with Holy Cross which brought wage increases of $4.50 a week, were John Cassidy, Peter McCann, Manning and Henley.

Wage increases are subject to War Labor Board approval.

Local 19 Fines Leaders Of Feed Mill Stoppage

Philadelphia—Four ringleaders of an unauthorized walk-out at Royal Feed and Milling Co. in Memphis, Tenn., have been fined by Local 19. "We support the action of the membership of this Local," said Pres. Henderson. "They are keeping the faith in our Union's Food for Victory pledge.

Faulty Govt. Program

"The fault basically, however, does not lie with the workers who struck, but rather with the failure of the government to follow correct war economy policies that will really stabilize not only wages, but also cost of living levels."

Henderson pointed out that "cumbersome machinery and failure to act efficiently on voluntary wage increases is provoking such situations. We will continue to support an all-out fight to maximize production and to defeat the Axis. We hope this will be a challenge to those now blocking correct war economy policies, to keep the faith as well."

At Royal Feed wage increases were granted subject to Government approval. But most of the men stayed away from work for two days, seeking an immediate increase. Following a Union meeting, they returned to work.

"The walkout was absolutely unauthorized," said International Representative A. J. Marcus in Memphis. "The union is doing everything in its power to prevent walkouts, but while I condemn this work stoppage, I should like to say that if a correct rationing and price control program was in effect, these things would not happen."

Fined Each $50

The day following the return to work, a special Trial Committee of the Local after hearing the case, fined each of the four ringleaders $50, but the fines were reduced to $25 on promise that they would never again take such action.

Royal Feed, one of the largest producers of livestock, dairy and poultry feeds in the South, turns out between 6,000 and 7,000 tons of feed a month.

EVERETT COZART, Machinist Mate, 2nd Class is one of several Local 178 boys from Traverse City, Mich., who is on the front lines in the battle for Democracy.

Cal-Pack Workers

Spurn Co. Contracts

By August Engelkes, Press Agent

Rochelle, Ill—At an important meeting late in February of Local 17 at California Sanitary Packing, makers of Del Monte Brand, we showed how the workers are sticking together for collective bargaining.

The foremen of the agricultural workers had circulated an individual contract to each field worker, saying that they sign it or else, but none of them would. They are about 62 in number and they are 100% for the Union.

Executives from Cal-Pack Local 18 at De Kalb attended our meeting to talk it over. De Kalb agricultural workers had the same contract shown to them.

It was decided that the agricultural workers would sign a paper saying they would not sign the Company contract. They all signed the Union paper, and agreed they would stick together.

Dean Kendall, Pres. and Edward Mear, Treas. were our representatives at the meeting at the City Hall with a War Labor Board representative. The case of the cannery workers is now before the WLB in Chicago.

California

State CIO To Act On Food For Victory

By Luisa Moreno, Int. Vice-Pres.

Los Angeles—Meeting for the first time, the State CIO Agricultural and Food Processing Manpower Committee discussed a program of action to be presented before the California CIO Council Executive Board scheduled to meet April 2 and 3 in this city.

The coming Industrial Welfare Commission Hearing to set minimum wages for women and minors in the fruit, vegetable packing, nut processing and other agricultural products industries were briefly discussed.

UCAPAWA Active

Committee members present were: Dixie Tiller, UCAPAWA Vice-Pres.; Jeff Kibre, Fishermen's Union; Oscar Fuss, CIO Legislative Representative; and Luisa Moreno, UCAPAWA Vice-Pres. and Committee Chairman. Paul Pinsky, State Research Director also participated in the meeting.

The Northern California sub-Committee whose Chairman is Steve Murdock, Secretary of the Santa Clara County CIO Council, is scheduled to meet and participate in formulating the action program covering the food industry from field to processing plant.

South Jersey

CIO Moves For People's Political Victory Drive

Camden, N. J.—On the initiative of Local 80 and Shipbuilding Local 1, steps to rally the entire South Jersey community to help stop the anti-Victory drive in Washington and throughout the country were taken at the Executive Board meeting of the CIO South Jersey Council on Feb. 24 which established a Committee to plan a Legislative Conference. Anthony Valentino, Pres. of Local 80 which has contracts at Campbell's Soup, Siegel Cigar, Consolidated Cigar and the Knox plants is Chairman of the Conference Committee.

Congress Sets Tune

"The war cannot be won and living standards protected by the unions in the shops alone," said Valentino. "We must see to it that Congress adopts measures that will mean full support to the boys on the front lines and food, etc. to keep the home front going."

All Labor Unions as well as Farm, Political and Community Organizations will be invited to join in the Conference which will work out ways and means for Political Action to win the CIO Victory Program.

Anti-Labor Drive on

"Reactionary industrialists and their stooges in Congress made it clear that they intend to launch a vicious anti-labor drive in the 78th Congress," warned the CIO Council Board in pointing out the urgency of effective Political Action.

"The first storm signals of this drive," said the CIO group, "have already become apparent in the adamant attitude of many employers toward the settling of grievances; in the character of the many bills already dropped in the hopper in Congress; and in the numerous statements of policy and speeches made by reactionaries throughout the land.

War Effort Threatened

"It is obvious that the main and fundamental purpose of this drive is to provoke a wave of unrest and strikes; to weaken and destroy labor unions; and consequently to seriously endanger our united War effort.

"The program for this drive agaist Labor which was conceived and organized at the last Convention of the National Assn. of Manufacturers, has been promptly and efficiently countered by an eleven point Victory Program of Labor Legislation announced by Philip Murray, CIO President on Jan. 10, 1943."

Peanut Women Win Pay Boosts in Pact

Franklin, Va.—A signed agreement has been reached by Local 511 with Pretlow Peanut whereby all except two points have been settled. Wage increases have been won for women as well as for men. Previously, the Company insisted that only men should get pay boosts.

Unsettled points which by agreement are going to the War Labor Board are the question of split shift and Union Security, according to Int. Rep. Harry Koger.

NEW NUT STEWARDS

Los Angeles—After serving as Union Steward at the Glaser Nut Shelling plant, Dora Rodriguez (above) is now settling beefs at the large Plant No. 1 of the Walnut Growers Association.

Other new Local 3 Stewards at the Diamond Walnut plants are Josephine Raymond, Irene White, Katherine Aguirre, Mary Juarez and Antonia Guiterrez. Marie Alves, formerly a Steward, was also elected.

De Nobili

Five Year Epic Struggle Ends With A-1 Pact

By Barney Henley, International Representative

Brooklyn, N. Y.—After a five-year struggle in the course of which over 300 workers were locked out, Local 647 has won a closed shop contract with De Nobili Cigar Co. in Long Island City, largest producers of Italian type cigars in the U. S. A. employing some 300 workers.

Besides the closed shop, the agreement calls for check-off, holidays with pay, overtime pay, seniority, and wage increases ranging from 10% to 39% subject to approval by the War Labor Board.

Unbeatable Local

Members of the Negotiating Committee were G. Santangelo, Local 647 Pres.; S. Emmi, Vice-Pres.; A. Di Cicco, Treas.; A. Callabretta, Fin. Sec.; and Int. Rep. Barney Henley. The leadership and members of this Local are to be commended for the successful struggle they waged these many years. Strikes, lock-outs and long waits for government decisions cannot break the back of this union bunch.

First break came with the winning of an NLRB decision in October 1942 which awarded $21,000 in back pay and returned 44 UCAPAWA members to their jobs. Closed Shop provision was stipulated at that time.

To Organize Parodi

With the Local fast getting on its feet, we expect to organize the last large Italian cigar company in the New York Metropolitan Area, Parodi in Jersey City.

The smaller Italian type shops have been pushing ahead, too. Increases amounting to 5c per 100 cigars were secured for 200 members of Local 647 at Alfieri, Lupo and Palumbo Cigar Companies. Applications for WLB approval have been submitted and the Union is bending every effort to get a quick government "OK" for the new scales.

P. Lorillard

Workers Hail New Contract

By Jennie Stiver, Press Agent

Middletown, Ohio—Our new contract at P. Lorillard, Local 55 was discussed and approval voted at the bang up membership meeting March 5 attended by some 400 members.

Management informed Bob Clark, Int. Vice-Pres. that they would come here on March 18 to sign the contract. Our Committee and Brother Clark did a fine job.

All Have Union Job

Brother Clark has given us new hope and courage with his splendid advice. He said that no union member could consider himself safe and secure just because of paying dues. We all have important work to do.

Circulars have been printed to inform steel workers of our progress in the CIO. They will be [illegible] to Armco workers by Local 55 to help with the organizing drive there.

DAIRY DIVISION

Cheese Plant Votes CIO

By James De Witt, International Representative

Fond Du Lac, Wis.—Workers at Tolibia Cheese Co. chose Local 341 as their bargaining agent by a vote of 32 for CIO to 25 for the AFL, in an NLRB election on Feb. 26. Negotiations were scheduled soon for a contract for the 65 men and women, producers of Italian type cheese.

Present wages range from 35c to 50c an hour. Working conditions are bad, no overtime is paid, cheesemakers are not paid for holidays or for seventh days, and the workers buy their own boots, special shoes, aprons, gloves, etc.

At Dow Cheese, Local 341 won a 60c minimum, paid vacations, seniority, free equipment, etc. — conditions which Tolibia workers now seek.

The Fond Du Lac-Ripon CIO Council and its leader, Joy Armstrong of the Steel Union, assisted Local 341 and Int. Rep. James De Witt in organizing Tolibia. These CIO men are still giving help to Local 341 in organizing other dairy plants in the city.

Three Midwest ORG. Committees

Philadelphia—Three Organizing Committees were set up at the Midwest Area Conference, covering 1. Iowa and Western Missouri, 2. Illinois and 3. Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Contributions from the local unions will go into the Committee of which the local is a part, and not into one Midwestern Regional Fund, as reported in the story in the March 1 issue of the NEWS.

39 Recent report from Int. Rep. Herschel Lile indicated that the renewal contract with Page Milk in Shelbyville, Ind. was about to be signed by Local 39.

Points won for the first time are: Union Shop and check-off; vacations, one week for six months' service, 2 weeks for over a year's service; overtime after 48 hours; and plant seniority. Wage increases range from 5 to 7½c per hour, subject to WLB approval.

BOOKS FOR THE BOYS in the Armed Services given by UCAPAWA members should have these stickers pasted in them. If you do not yet have stickers, write to the CIO Committee at 1929 Vermont Ave., Washington, D. C.

ON TO VICTORY

For the dear U.S.A.
I am pleading today.
Let us work with our might
For our boys as they fight.
Help them conquer the foe,
His brutal power we know.
His rage we can't endure
Our triumph must be sure.

So let each do his best
In this great noble test.
We can win, for we fight
To protect what is right.
As we work let us pray
For a free world today.
Then we'll shout and we'll sing;
Let sweet freedom be our king.
Victory now is our endeaver,
Oh — Stars and Stripes wave on forever.

By Jennie Stiver, Local 55

Check Your FACTS!

ANSWERS

(Questions on page 5)

1. The order of business of a local union meeting is:
   1) Opening
   2) Roll Call of Officers and Reading of Minutes
   3) Communications and Bills
   4) Report of Executive Board and Officers
   5) Proposals for Membership
   6) Reports of Delegates and Committees
   7) Unfinished Business
   8) New Business
   9) Good and Welfare

Keeping to this order helps make the meeting clear and orderly. If a member brings up a topic at the wrong time, a good UCAPAWA chairman does not simply rap the gavel and say "out of order," but explains to the member when he should bring up the point he has in mind.

* * *

2. If there is an urgent matter which cannot wait until the usual place in the order of business, the regular order of business may be suspended by a two-thirds vote, making it possible to take up the matter then and there.

For example, should your Congressmen be in town that evening and you believe a delegation should be elected to go around to see him immediately, you need not wait until late in the meeting to bring this up under "new business." You can move to have the rules suspended, to consider the matter promptly.

* * *

3. If the Chairman so requests, motions must be submitted in writing. Especially if the motion is complicated, this is good procedure by the Chairman, intended to avoid confusion.

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4. Although in many meetings people who want to second a motion, amiably call out "second," UCAPAWA practice is to have the seconder rise and be recognized by the chair. While this seems like a detail, and a minor one at that, close regard for the rule leads toward clear-cut meetings instead of slip-shod ones.

Sometimes, too, it is important that the name of the seconder be exactly right in the minutes and even if you have the keenest Recording Secretary in 10 counties, he cannot get the name of the seconder if some seven brothers and sisters, well settled in their chairs, have simply called out "second."

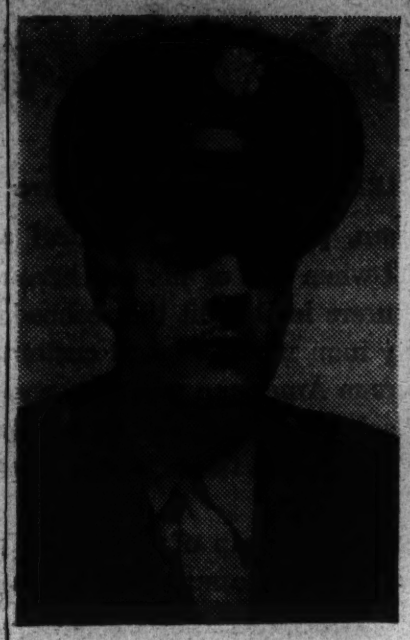
* * *

5. The maker of a motion can withdraw it if his second consents, so long as the motion has not been debated.

However, if the motion has been debated, it cannot be withdrawn unless the body agrees by giving a majority vote for withdrawal.

DO YOUR KNOW that the Red Cross has announced that 4,000,000 pints of blood will be needed by the American Armed Forces in 1943?

TOBACCO DIVISION



Flaris D. Fisher (left) and Lester Foor are two of the DWG Findlay, Ohio Local 72 boys who have left for the Army. They were mechanics in the plant.

Local 70 Battles Move Against Ohio Hour Law

By Ruby Catlett, Press Agent

Lima, Ohio—Local 70 is playing an active part in the CIO campaign to save the Ohio law which protects women and children in industry. Elizabeth Settlemire, Pres., and Ruby Catlett, Rec. Sec., who represented the Allen County Council, attended the Conference on Ohio Female Labor Laws called by Ted F. Silvey, Sec. of the Ohio CIO in Columbus on Feb. 27.

Smash All Protection?

A bill has been brought before the Assembly regarding the relaxation of working hours for women and 16-year-old girls. This bill called for no minimum hours for women in War industries and a 54-hour week for all industries. It also would allow boys and girls of 16 to work any hour of the day or night which any employer required, with no limitation on hours or type of work.

Ohio is proud of its Female Hour law and Labor could see no reason for a relaxing of the law, except as an emergency in some cases. On this, labor leaders were willing to agree. But Big Business wanted the entire bill changed.

Delinquency a Danger

At the Conference, Silvey explained what part each Local was expected to take in defeating this bill. Local 70 started action by sending messages to their own Representative and Senator, and to the Senators who had written the bill.

These messages stated that there was no labor shortage here; that our women and girls should not be subjected to such a law; and that such a law would only bring a future world of untold trouble, with increasing breakdown of health and morale and a dangerous increase of Child Delinquency.

On March 2, after a hearing the night before, it was announced that a new bill would be written at some future time. A letter from L. H. Myers to me states that he will give the matter very careful consideration.

Findlay, Ohio—Local 72 at the DWG plant here voted to give each member who leaves for the Armed Forces a $25 War Bond, according to Press Agent Evelyn Clark.

Notes from LOCALS

55 A collection was taken at the Lorillard plant (Local 55, Middletown, O.) for one of our members, Mr. J. Thomas, who broke his leg at Christmas time. He has not been able to work for a long time.

We also gave a pound party for another unfortunate member. She received many large containers of groceries to tide her over for a while. We have a very fine spirit of charity for one another here.

By Jennie Stiver, Press Agent.

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69 Our new Chief Steward, Georgianna Grubb, held a Stewards' meeting Feb. 24. The new stewards were installed by Evelyn Marks, Local 69 Pres. at D.W.G. Northside, Lima, O. There will be Stewards' meetings once a month.

The Drying Room and Porto-Rico Selectors' contribution to the Soldiers and Sailors' relief fund this month amounted to $12.90.

Union members from all of the CIO Locals all over the city of Lima attended our big birthday celebration dance of the signing of our new contract, held at the Union Hall on Feb. 27.

John Rupert, honorably discharged from the Army, is now a foreman in the Southside plant. (Names of boys who recently entered the service will be printed on the next NEWS Honor Roll.)

Opal Mauch has resigned as Chief Night Steward. Opal Keller takes her place.

By Donna Maxwell, Press Agent.

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70 It was with deep regret that Local 70 learned of the resignation of Edmund Yost as Manager of the D.W.G. Southside plant, after 45 years of service and 35 years as plant Manager. Although at times he was a little impatient regarding our Union's grievances, they were usually settled by him satisfactorily.

Floyd Mack who has been Asst. Manager succeeds Mr. Yost and the vacancy left by Mr. Mack will be filled by Frank Mueldorf. Both these men have been our Foremen for several years and the employees are very well pleased with the new set-up. Congratulations from Local 70 to both.

By Ruby Catlett, Press Agent.

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297 Woolson Spice Local 297, Toledo, O., gave a party Feb. 19 for the employees who are just leaving or have just left for military service. All reported a good time.

By Dan Smith, Reporter

Delphos D.W.G. Stewards in Action

By Donna Maxwell, Press Agent

Lima, Ohio—Our Local 69 President, Evelyn Marks, has done a wonderful job in helping workers at the Delphos D.W.G. plant get their Union on its feet. The membership is growing steadily.

Lillian Wegisen was elected Chief Steward. There are now 10 Stewards. Delphos, which is near Lima, is for the present organized under Local 69, the D.W.G. Local at the Northside plant here.

Pilot for Privilege

By CARL HAESSLER, Federated Press

THE hero-worshipping American, persistently uncritical and eager to admire great men, got a rude shock Jan. 22 when one of his ace heroes made the mistake of his life in a speech to auto manufacturers in Detroit that echoed and reechoed over the airways. Steve Hannaghan, publicity man whose biggest customer is Henry Ford, evidently misjudged the temper of the average American when he wrote the anti-union, anti-New Deal slanders that Eddie Rickenbacker read off. People are still debating whether Rickenbacker was a good innocent man who had fallen among thieves or whether he has been a pal of the automotive barons all along.

You can take your choice from plenty of vigorously expressed judgments. Pres. Frank X. Martel of the Detroit & Wayne County Federation of Labor (AFL) says uncompromisingly:

"Capt. Rickenbacker seems to have escaped the Japanese only to be captured—or rather recaptured—by the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers."

The labor-baiting Detroit Free Press on the other hand started a boom for Rickenbacker for President the next morning. Its inquiring reporter did not find much encouragement among the citizens but the editorial writer let go with both barrels of ink:

"He stands alone, unique in the history of our nation, a man who has risen above all personal desires and ambitions, the voice of a mighty crusader for the return of the spirit of the old America for which again and again he has offered his life in two wars . . . It may be that history will proclaim him as the Man of Destiny, whom God in his infinite wisdom has set aside after his epic travails to bring back to America the glory of its ideals, its half forgotten courage, its moral foundations."

This "man of destiny" appears in a different light to hardheaded Research Director James H. Wishart of the United Auto Workers (CIO), who lists seven aircraft and auto corporations of which Rickenbacker has been or is now an officer or director, and the implications are not shirked when Wishart says:

"Why Rickenbacker should have been selected to carry the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers line of attack upon war workers is not hard to understand. For Rickenbacker's whole career shows him to be fully willing to serve the enemies of labor and democracy . . . When Rickenbacker speaks against labor, he is speaking not for heroes of the sea or battlefield, but for the corporate interests who have not yet been willing to forget their quarrel with labor in the interest of victory over Hitlerism."

Used Labor Spies

THE Rickenbacker corporations listed by the UAW research director are:

1. RICKENBACKER MOTOR CO. — Rick failed to make good there and was quoted as saying after the company went broke and was dissolved in 1927: "It was a good car but it was 10 years ahead of its time . . . In six years we were broke . . . I was $200,000 in the hole."

Whether it may have been a good car has been disputed, but not the fact it was produced under bad labor conditions. A member of Local 58, Intl. Bro. of Electrical Workers (AFL), recalls being laid off a building trades job where he got 75c an hour as a third year apprentice and going to work for Rickenbacker's company as a journeyman at 80c an hour, at a time when the union scale for journeyman electricians in Detroit was $1.25 an hour.

Rick, according to Martel, "blacklisted men who dared to join a union. He used labor spies. Rickenbacker as an auto manufacturer was just as anti-union as the rest of them, as bad as General Motors and Chalmers and the others."

2. CADILLAC DIVISION GENERAL MOTORS — Here he had less chance to show his anti-labor bias because he was only assistant sales manager.

3. FOKKER AIRCRAFT CORP, GENERAL MOTORS — As vice president Rickenbacker's reputation was exploited by GM as the ace American flier of the first world war and from then on (1929) he has been more or less closely connected with the aircraft side of GM and its subsidiaries or controlled companies.

4. AVIATION CORP. — Not in the immediate GM family, this company got Rick as vice president in 1932.

5. EASTERN AIRLINES, GENERAL MOTORS — Rick became vice president and general manager of this corporation in 1934 and has been with it ever since, even after it was more or less divorced from GM because of federal law prohibiting aircraft manufacturers to own stock in air transport companies or vice versa. "North American," says Business Week (March 12, 1938), "escaped this provision on a technicality."

Scabs Flown in by Plane

BECAUSE of the coolie wage level Rickenbacker maintained for ground crews the Eastern Airlines mechanics walked out April 14, 1939, at the Newark airport and several others. The scale against which they struck ranged from 32c to 90c an hour, according to the New York Herald Tribune, though federal regulations permitted only licensed airline mechanics to service commercial planes.

The union, Air Line Mechanics Assn. (unaffiliated), was willing to arbitrate its demands, as previously suggested by the Natl. (Railroad) Mediation Board, but rick refused arbitration and went ahead to fly in scabs and eventually break the strike by May 4. All the union had asked was 46c minimum for apprentices and $1 an hour instead of 90c for master mechanics, together with the 48-hour 6-day week and seniority rights. In that year Eastern Airlines had made 2½ times bigger profits than the year before, netting $2.06 a share as against 85c, even after enormous reserves for depreciation, amortization and taxes.

6. NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION, GENERAL MOTORS—This corporation, mentioned above, was bitterly anti-union and even after the UAW-CIO won a bargaining election in 1941 the management refused to bargain in good faith and chiseled on the workers at every opportunity. Rickenbacker was vice-president and public relations director in 1936.

7. INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY CORP.—So scabby and shoddy is the labor record of this corporation, of which Rickenbacker is president, that the AFL says there hasn't been a union man hired there for 12 years. The Indianapolis Central Labor Union (AFL) has had Rick's Speedway on its unfair list for four years and the Building Trades Council (AFL) for many years more. Rick pays substandard wages to carpenters, electricians, painters and workers of all types. His racing drivers are shabbily treated by him, so much so that in the early thirties they went on strike just before the race was to begin and held it up for two hours.

Howdy Wilcox, a wellknown driver, was disqualified by the medical examiner on a phony finding, so phony that the other drivers signed a petition of willingness to drive with him, though it might mean a man's life to race in the same field with a medically disqualified competitor. The actual fact was that Wilcox had been beefing too much about needing a drivers' union.

Rick strutted back and forth before the drivers yelling to them to turn scab but no one budged until a satisfactory settlement was reached. Among the drivers' grievances were high entry fees and no return and inadequate prize money, according to Editor Joseph K. Shepard of The Union, AFL central body organ, and vice chairman of Federated Press.

The Speedway has the reputation of being a slaughterhouse, the track being rough, poorly designed and a death whirl. The stands are the old original wooden ones, condemned firetraps, and the races are run for profit instead of the edifying purposes publicized by Hannaghan, for years press agent for Rickenbacker's Speedway.

Fronted for America First

THESE are some of Rick's corporation tieups, dating back to when he had come home from France as America's ace flier, the poor boy who had risen from a $3.50-a-week job for an 84-hour week in the Federal Glass Co. in Columbus, O., after his father was killed, to daredevil auto racer making $40,000 a year, then as Gen. Pershing's chauffeur overseas and then commanding officer of an aircraft pursuit quadron, credited with personally bringing down 26 planes.

His glory never quite faded though he hobnobbed with America's most reactionary businessmen and was a front man for the America First organization. Though he had said in Kansas City as quoted by the New York Times of Sept. 19, 1939, that the Soviet Union "will be the inevitable winner of the second world war" and the U. S. "can and should stay out, for all we can get out of it would be bankruptcy and a long list of dead young men," Riek was entrusted by the government with a military mission after Pearl Harbor. It was on that mission that he lost his plane and endured the agon, with his companions of 21 days adrift on a rubber raft in the Pacific.

In spite of his long anti-union record, or rather in ignorance of it, "every worker prayed to God that Rickenbacker would come home safe," as one labor editor put it. And what about his flying record? There is no disputing that Rick was a brave flier, one of the bravest in the first world war, but some men who were there maintain that he did not bag all the 26 enemy planes which he as squadron commander was in position to claim.

Lester F. Bishop, whose commission as army air corps captain is being processed, declared in the Detroit Labor News Feb. 5.:

"I have known Rick for nearly 25 years and knew men that were over there with him in World War I. His 25 air victories were not legal . . . The airplanes were shot down, but when the boys in the squadron came in and claimed their victories, Rick would squawk to high heaven that he shot this and that one down. So therefore he was given the credit for 26 air victories. The great American ace was then born on some other fellow's effort.

"Rick came back. He convinced the U. S. postoffice department that they should let him (Rick) fly one of the airmail D-H4s here and there. He cracked up every one they let him have, it was two, if not three. Then Otto Preager, assistant postmaster general, decided that whenever Rick wanted to fly an experienced airmail pilot would do the flying and Rick would be the excess baggage . . .

"Why do I know? I have been an active pilot since 1915 and one of the first six U. S. airmail pilots. My duties now are chief control tower operator, 3rd ferry command, Romulus Air Base, Romulus, Mich. My Air Line Pilots Assn. (AFL) (inactive membership card) is No. 424."

Newspapermen who covered the Newark airport in the thirties tell a similar story about Rick's latter-day flying. He was used as a front by the aircraft industry in 1934, they say, to spearhead the fight against the airmail contract cancellations. His glamour as a hero was then used against the Roosevelt administration. He made stunt flights, getting credit as pilot, when, as every Newark airport reporter well knew, veteran airline pilots did the actual flying.

Rick's obsession against unions and the New Deal pops through his utterances like flak through a parachute.

Peddles NAM Notions

HIS speeches reflect what the duPonts were saying in secret conclave with the Crawfords and Witherows of the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers before its annual convention. He has won praise from Westbrook Pegler and the pro-fascist rabblerouser Gerald L. K. Smith, who nominated Rickenbacker for U. S. President on the America First party ticket in a speech at Detroit Feb. 7. Smith's proposal has since been heartily indorsed by the Ku Klux Klan of Florida.

Pres. J. A. Sexauer of the J. A. Sexauer Mfg. Co., New York, is sending free copies of Rick's Detroit speech to "70,000 prominent industrialists" with the suggestion that they reprint and distribute free to their employes as he has done with his "as a major contribution to our war effort."

Let the epitaph on Rickenbacker be spoken by Editor James Lindahl of the Packard Local edition of the United Auto Worker. In an editorial which the Packard union printed in a full-page ad in the Detroit Sunday Free Press at a cost of $1,300, Lindahl wrote to Rickenbacker:

"However short your memory let us remind you of another man, a hero like yourself. This other man was the idol of America. His word was widely heeded, his prestige was without equal. Today he is forgotten, decredited. That man's name is Charles Augustus Lindbergh, late of the fascist America First Committee. The same thing can happen to you. If you continue, the end will be the same as that of Lindbergh—shame—discredit—oblivion."

NMU PILOT

Federated Picture

BIG INDUSTRIALISTS Wm. S. Knudsen and Henry Ford smile fondly at Eddie Rickenbacker who is waging war against the trade unions, trying to undermine confidence in the production soldiers, a crusade which hardly promotes a vigorous drive for Victory over the Axis! If "Eddie" got his way, the boys would return from overseas to an open shop America with no Unions at hand to fight off a bigger and better depression.